

RECOVERY FUNDS AT WORK IN OHIO'S SIXTH DISTRICT

Wilson Announces \$11 Million Available for Ohio's ENERGY STAR Appliance Rebate Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Energy is awarding \$11,020,370 to Ohio through the “State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program.” This initiative will help customers replace old appliances with new, cost-saving ENERGY STAR qualified appliances. Part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the program’s objective is to help achieve the national goals of spurring economic growth, creating jobs, saving energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

“Old appliances can use a large amount of electricity,” Wilson said. “This is a great opportunity to conserve energy and save families money every month. These rebates will help Ohioans make energy efficient appliance purchases that will also directly stimulate the economy and create jobs.”

The rebate program was originally authorized by Congress as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, but did not receive funds for implementation. ARRA 2009 included the authorizing provision from the original law and appropriated \$300 million for the national program. The federally funded rebates will reduce the first-cost of higher-efficiency appliances and help foster awareness about the benefits of ENERGY STAR products. By increasing demand for more efficient appliances, the program will also help retain associated manufacturing, retailing, and recycling jobs.

To participate, states must submit an official application to the Department of Energy (DOE) by August 15, 2009 and a detailed program plan by October 15, 2009. This detailed plan must specify which ENERGY STAR appliance categories will be included in their rebate program, the rebate level for each product, a system for processing rebates, and a plan for recycling old appliances. DOE will award 10% of a State’s allocated funds upon receipt of the initial application, with the remaining 90% awarded after approval of the program plan. All funds will be distributed by November 30, 2009.

States have the flexibility to select which ENERGY STAR qualified appliances to include, as well as the rebate amount for each appliance. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances eligible for rebates include: air conditioners, heat pumps, boilers, furnaces, clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers, refrigerators, and water heaters.

The ENERGY STAR program is a well-known labeling program that helps consumers make energy smart choices by identifying the most energy efficient products. ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. It covers more than 60 product categories and is supported by a network of almost

600 utility, and state and government partners serving more than 74 million households, over 2,000 retail partners representing more than 27,000 storefronts, and 2,645 manufacturers of ENERGY STAR qualified products.